



The Ames Intelligencer

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Iowa's Pre-Eminent Architectural Firm Will Be Subject of Annual Meeting

Architectural historian Barbara Beving Long will be guest speaker at the Ames Heritage Association's annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 1989, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Ames Public Library at 515 Douglas Avenue.

Ms. Long, a consultant with Midwest Research, an architectural and historical research and consulting firm in Des Moines, will present a talk and slide program about "Iowa's Pre-Eminent Architectural Firm: The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird, et al in Iowa." According to Ms. Long, the Des Moines architectural firm has played a significant role in designing Iowa's architectural heritage.

Since the late 1880s, Proudfoot & Bird, et al has been responsible for the construction of numerous major office buildings, more than 200 residences, more than 100 commercial buildings, and at least 50 public school buildings across the state.

Apartment buildings, banks, libraries, hotels, theaters, churches, hospitals, courthouses, and even the conservation pavilion at the Iowa State Fairgrounds are the work of Proudfoot and Bird, et al. Iowa State University's Memorial Union and several private residences and schools in Ames are among the products of the architectural firm.

Ms. Long is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and works with local governments and cities in the Midwest, specializing in architectural and historical research and survey work. She also has done extensive work with National Register nominations.

Officers for 1989 and members of the Board of Directors will be elected at the annual meeting. Current Ames Heritage Association President Jack Adams invites the public to attend the meeting and encourages interested persons to volunteer to serve as members of the board to provide new energy and interest in the Ames Heritage Association.



Barbara Beving Long will speak about her work in architectural history at the annual Ames Heritage Association meeting on Thursday, January 12, 1989 in the auditorium of the Ames Public Library at 515 Douglas Avenue.

Ames Peat Bog Reveals Local History

by Dave Ballard

A small wetland, located along the Skunk River northeast of Ames and locally known as the Ames Peat Bog, has aroused local curiosity and scientific inquiry for more than 100 years as the repository for numerous bison remains and a site of unique geology and plant species. Unlike the prairie marshes and wetlands of Central Iowa, which formed in shallow undrained depressions, the Ames Bog formed in the narrow valley of a small tributary stream to the Skunk River.

The Ames Bog was explored between the years of 1876 and 1883 by F. E. L. Beal, a professor at Iowa State College. Beal's winter vacations were frequently spent roaming across the countryside surrounding Ames and studying the birdlife in the region. On one such excursion along the Skunk River north of Ames, Beal discovered the Ames Bog. In 1903, Beal described the Ames Bog as it appeared prior to drainage:

"... At the foot of the slope and on both sides of the ridge, however, were spread out several acres of soft wet bog, intersected by a deep ditch cut out by the water that issued from springs at the foot of the gravelly slopes. I promptly surmised that this bog was the real repository of the buffalo bones, and that the skull I had found had been taken from the bog and carried up to the top of the ridge by human agency. Moreover, the bones were black as ebony, showing their contact with the black mud. Having reached this conclusion, I descended the slope and began a search for more bones. I soon found that I had come across a real cemetery of the buffalo. In every place where the grass had been cut away by the running water, pieces of ribs or leg bones could be seen sticking out of the mud, and occasionally the great horn cores would betray the presence of a skull."

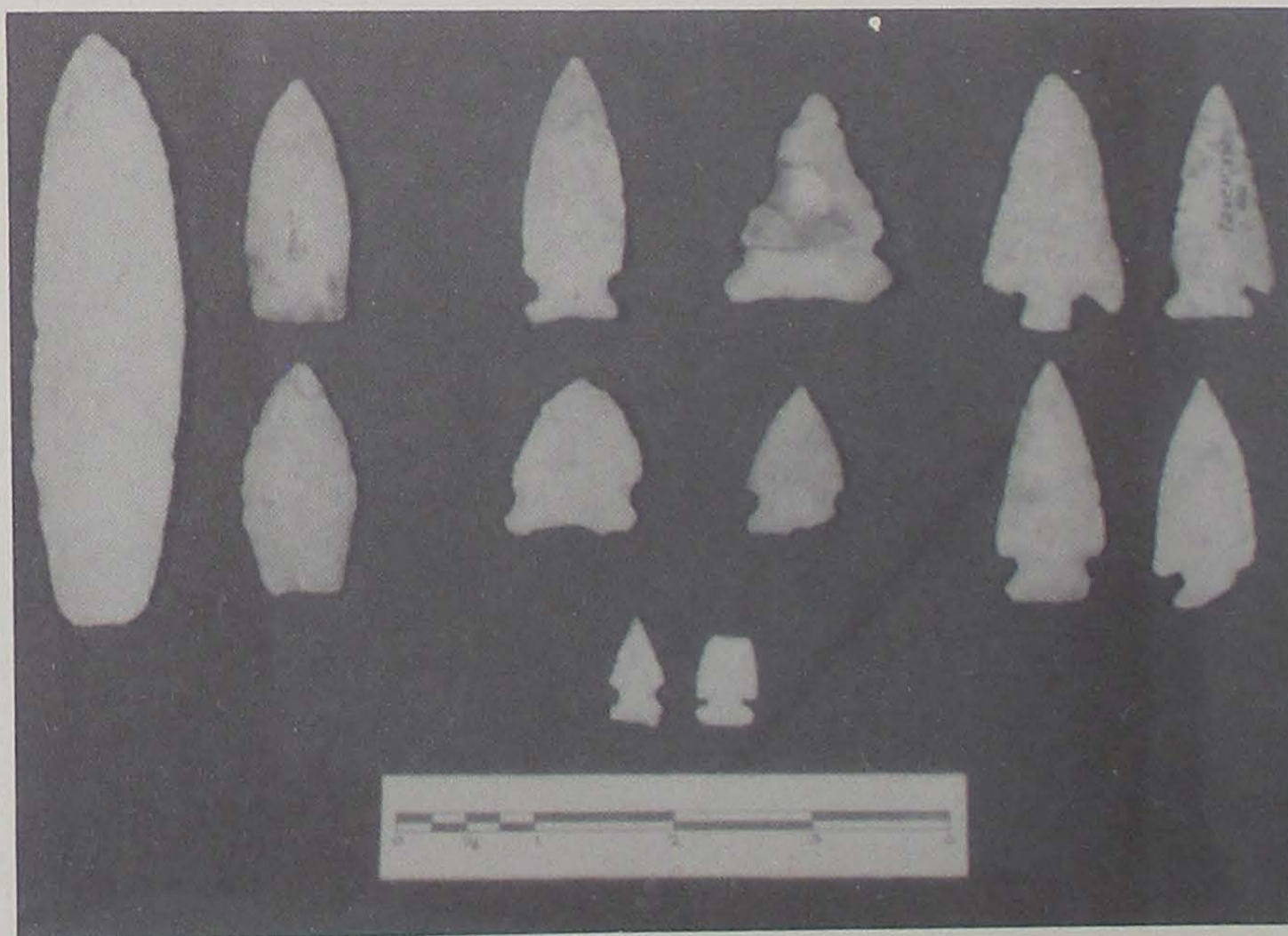
For the next 50 years, various

individuals examined and collected bones from the Ames Bog. Dr. J.E. Guthrie, professor of zoology at Iowa State College, reportedly excavated a number of nearly complete bison skeletons which he mounted in the zoology laboratory at the college. Philip Sponge and George Hindrickson are also mentioned as collecting bison and elk remains from the bog. In a letter to Louis Pammel dated April 8, 1909, Charles Aldrich commented that the bog contained immense quantities of bison bones and that one could have gathered several wagon loads.

Louis Pammel recorded the plant species present in the Ames Bog prior to its drainage in the period between 1920 and 1940. A partial list of the plants recorded by Pammel includes iris, orchid, monkey flower, marsh marigold, large-toothed aspen, and quaking aspen. Reportedly in 1929, Pammel urged local authorities to purchase and preserve the bog by damming the valley in order to raise the lowering water table. Although the wetland plants have long since vanished, the area surrounding the bog has never been grazed heavily and, as such, a

number of woodland plants, including jack-in-the-pulpits, hepatica, wild ginger, bloodroot, wild leeks, and maidenhair and ostrich plume ferns, which were once common in the woodlands surrounding Ames but are becoming increasingly rare, are still quite abundant in the valley in which the Ames Bog is located.

During the past two decades, the Ames Bog has come under more systematic and intensive study. In 1972, David Gradwohl, professor of anthropology at Iowa State University, was the first to recover artifacts from the Ames Bog and to recognize its archaeological potential. Between 1972 and 1985, systematic archaeological surveys and test excavations were conducted by the author in order to locate prehistoric activity areas and to determine the cultural history of the Ames Bog. The geology and soils of the Ames Bog were the topics of studies conducted by Julieann Van Nest in 1986. Additional archaeological test excavations were conducted in 1987 by John Bower, professor of anthropology at Iowa State University, as part of an archaeological field school.



Projectil points from the Ames Bog include Paleo-Indian types on the left; Archaic types in the center; Middle Woodland types on the right; and Late Woodland types on the bottom.

Although many aspects of the Ames Bog remain unknown, investigations conducted during the past two decades have produced a wealth of information on the prehistoric ecology and peoples of the region surrounding Ames. Unlike archaeological sites located on upland surfaces, which are subject to weathering and erosion, the Ames Bog is a stratified alluvial deposit of clearly defined and partially water-logged soil horizons. Organic materials such as wood, bone, nuts, and seeds, which are not normally preserved in upland archaeological sites, are well-preserved in the Ames Bog. The stratified soil horizons contain the archaeological remains of different prehistoric cultures as distinct units within an undisturbed vertical sequence of soils. Descending from the modern surface, increasingly older cultural, plant, and animal remains are contained within the soil horizons. In addition, the abundant plant remains can be used to date the soil horizons by radio-carbon-14 dating methods. Because of these unique factors, it is possible to study the prehistoric peoples occupying the Ames Bog within an ecological-historical framework.

Present information indicates that the valley in which the Ames Bog is located has a long and complex history. The valley appears to have begun to form 11,000-12,000 years ago with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. Deep soil borings to the base of the valley where it contacts glacial till have produced spruce needles and cones carbon-dated to approximately 11,000 years ago. At that time, the immediate post-glacial climate surrounding Ames was colder and wetter than at the present, and the area was covered with a spruce forest. As time passed, the climate warmed and the conifers gave way to a hardwood forest and later a prairie environment.

As early as 8,000-10,000 years ago, the valley may have been occupied by early big game hunters of the Paleo-Indian tradition, as indicated by the collection of several distinct leaf-shaped spear points known as Agate Basin and Dalton-type

projectile points. Little is known of the lifestyles of the Paleo-Indians occupying the Ames Bog.

Paleo-Indian people were wide-ranging nomadic big game hunters and traveled in small extended family bands. At various times and places in North America between 8,000-12,000 years ago, Paleo-Indians hunted such large ice-age mammals as mammoth, camel, horse, and extinct forms of bison.

Later, between 8,000-3,000 years ago, the ecology of the Ames Bog was being exploited by small bands of the Archaic forager tradition. During this period, central Iowa was drier and warmer than at the present time, and the prairie was at its maximum extent. Although in some areas bison hunting continued to be important, the Archaic foragers adapted to the ecological changes by developing a semi-sedentary broad-based seasonal subsistence pattern which exploited a wide variety of plant and animal species present in their territory on a seasonal basis, including bison, deer, medium and small-sized mammals, birds, freshwater mussels, and nuts. Stone tools and debris from the Archaic horizons reflect such activities as tool-making, hide preparation, and possibly bone and woodworking.

Between 3000-1000 years ago, the peat deposit began to form in the valley, and the Ames Bog was occupied by people of the Woodland tradition. Plant remains from the peat indicate that the modern mixed prairie/woodland environment began to form approximately 2,500 years ago. The Woodland tradition is recognized throughout the Midwest and is characterized by burial mounds, corner-notched projectile points, grit-tempered and cord-decorated pottery, and, in some areas, horticultural subsistence patterns. Occupation of the Ames Bog by people of the Woodland tradition appears to have been quite extensive. They also appear to have exploited a wide variety of plant and animal species and may also have conducted bison kills by driving the animals into the wet muddy soils of the Ames Bog where they became mired and were more easily killed.

Artifacts and debris from Woodland tradition horizons reflect such activities as killing and butchering bison, hide preparation, and toolmaking, as well as killing and eating medium and small-sized mammals, birds, and turtles.

The period between 1000 A.D.-1800 is not well-known at the present time. There is, however, some evidence to suggest that the area was occupied by people of the Oneota Culture, the name given to the ancestors of the historic Ioway Indian tribe. Likewise, the presence of historic Native Americans in the Ames Bog watershed is difficult to demonstrate on the basis of archaeological materials, but it is suggested by the collection of an iron projectile point and by historical accounts of Mesquakie hunting parties along the Skunk River north of Ames well into the second half of the nineteenth century.

Treacherous to livestock and unsuitable for cultivation, the Ames Bog was of little use to nineteenth century Euro-American pioneers in the area. They reportedly collected bison bones and ground them into meal, and two ice pond dams were constructed in the valley, from which ice was cut in the winter and stored for use during the warmer months.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Ames Bog is that for such a long period of time and through environmental changes, peoples of vastly different cultural traditions exploited the Ames Peat Bog for its plant and animal resources. The Ames Bog is truly a unique archaeological and ecological resource, and future investigations will provide more information concerning the prehistoric ecology and peoples of this unique region near Ames.

Dave Ballard is a resident of Ames, tracing his family back to early settlers in Story County. Dave is an amateur archaeologist and historian.

Bauge Family Home Update

The Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board are still negotiating with the mover to relocate the historic Bauge family log home from its present site north of Huxley to a permanent field stone foundation at McFarland Park north of Ames.

Throughout the spring and summer, numerous volunteers, including Don Faas' trade and industrial class, the Iowa Youth Conservation Corps, and the Ames Town and Country Kiwanis, worked to prepare the cabin for its move. Dozens of generous people contributed cash, information, and historical items to help the project along.

Newspaper articles and photographs publicized the project. Everett

and Avis Steensland of Huxley, owners of the cabin, donated the log building to the Story County Conservation Board, and an agreement was signed between the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board for management, insurance protection, restoration, and programming for the cabin.

Historical consultant Darrell Henning of Decorah presented a report to the Ames Heritage Association containing suggestions for restoration of the Bauge home. According to Darrell, the home was built by persons of Norwegian descent, is in excellent shape, and retains a good deal of its original integrity.

Among Darrell's recommendations are to restore the lean-to which was added to the home within 20 years of its construction; to choose a specific time period for restoration purposes, preferably the first generation of Bauges; to contact family members to learn more about early furnishings, living in the cabin, and family history; to remove the plaster from the white-washed log walls to explore changes in the construction of the original building; and to construct a raised fieldstone foundation for the cabin on its new site.

It is hoped that the Bauge home will be resting on its new foundation at McFarland Park before winter snows arrive, waiting for spring and a new chapter in the history of this important local landmark.



The Bauge family log cabin, covered with wooden siding, was home to Nils and Synneva Bauge who settled on the farm northeast of Huxley in 1866.

A portion of the outside wooden siding is removed to show the original log walls, sometimes covered with newspaper. The inside of the cabin will be restored to the original white-washed log walls.





Historical consultant Darrell Henning of Decorah explored the inside and the outside of the log home like a historical detective looking for clues about the construction of the building and changes through the years.



In the Palestine Cemetery north of Huxley rest the ornate headstones of Nils and Synneva Bauge, natives of Norway. Nils was born in 1806 and died in 1890; Synneva was born in 1820 and died in 1911. Members of the family, including children and grandchildren of Nils and Synneva, are also buried in the small cemetery.



Thanks



Special thanks to all the generous people who donated time, money, and support to the Bauge family log home relocation project.

Thanks to Everett and Avis Steensland, Billy Sunday Questors, Donald Zytowski, Betty and Jim Cue, Linda Just, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Becvar, Captain Greeley Questors, Ames Foundation, Praeri Rail Trail Questors, ISU Credit Union, Austin and Loya Getz,

Vivian Richie McCracken, Clarice Steele, Kenneth and Sandra Bauge, Larry and Judy Bauge, Dane Questors, Alpha Delta Kappa, Helen Koch, Willa Mae Bauge Johansen, Ames Savings and Loan, United Bank and Trust, Delbert and Janice Trickle, Alice Richter, Jack Adams, Ramona Paulsen, Ade and Wanda Halverson, Betty McHugh, Jay Cole Simser, First National Bank, Elden and Marguerite Bauge,

Ames Kiwanis Club, Mary Peale Schofield, Ursula Von Godany, Leda Helen Barrie, Neoma Bjelland Tomlinson, Ames Izaak Walton League, Helen Boyd Hepplewhite, Ames School Administrators, Fredrica Shattuck Questors, Old Oaken Bucket Questors, Sons of Norway, Ames Town and Country Kiwanis, Iowa Youth Conservation Corps, Don Faas and his trade and industrial class, and Harvey Emmons.

Please enroll me as a 1989 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.

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*Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to
Ames Heritage Association, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.*



"The Weekly (Ames) *Intelligencer*, a live paper, was first published by Mr. A. McFadden, an experienced newspaper publisher and editor. Its first issue was about April, 1868—nineteen years ago—and is still being published. J.E. Duncan, Esq., is editor and proprietor, and gets up an excellent paper."

From the description of Ames' first newspaper in William G. Allen's History of Story County written in 1887.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the second Thursday of every month (September through May) at 7:30 p.m. at the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas.

The annual membership meeting is held the second Thursday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year - winter, spring, and fall.

From meetings of the Ames Heritage Association:

- Reports from Treasurer Jan Halverson, indicating a balance of \$3,664.99 as of December 7, 1988, including \$3,010.00 in donations for the Bauge cabin project;
- Plans to develop educational packets for teachers and others interested in learning about the prairie plantings at Hoggatt School;
- Invitation to interested persons to run for election to the Board of Directors (Contact Lee Himan or Sharon Wirth);
- Plans to develop a brochure for general community use explaining the new historic district ordinance and historic preservation projects in Ames;
- Receipt of a \$200 grant from the Ames Community Arts Council for additional landscaping at Hoggatt School;

- Entered into an agreement with the Ames Community School District to transfer ownership of Hoggatt School while maintaining management, maintenance, and programming responsibilities;
- Plans to concentrate on membership recruitment and publicity, including development of membership brochures, note paper, certificates for newborns at Mary Greeley Medical Center, and other projects;
- Report concerning the successful Preservation in Progress workshop and the Historic Home Tour in October (20 people attended the workshop, more than 500 people visited the historic homes in various stages of restoration, and at least 70 people visited Hoggatt School during its open house).

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